

**REMARKS**

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated April 17, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13 -17 are all the claims pending in the application and they all stand rejected. Applicant has cancelled claims 3 and 12 and added their respective features to amended independent claims 1 and 8.

**Prior Art Rejections**

The foregoing amendments to claims 1 and 8 are supported at least by cancelled claims 3 and 12 as previously presented and Figs. 8, 13 and 16 and the corresponding descriptions in the specification.

Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the claim rejections. Applicant respectfully asserts that the cited references fail to teach or fairly suggest all the features of the claimed invention. For example, there is no reasonable combination of the applied references that would meet the claimed tire including a discontinuous main groove component having angle of 0° with respect to the circumferential direction, and wherein in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main groove component is not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion.

JP 63-212105 does not teach grooves at a 0 degree angle. The angles of the grooves of JP 105 are from 5 to 20 degrees.

Additionally, GB '069 teaches a groove at a 0 degree angle but the groove is continuous. The claimed language requires the use of discontinuous grooves.

Furthermore, with respect to the features of claim 3 as previously presented, in the Examiner's rejection over Japan 106 (JP 01-109106) in view of Nakawgawa et al. (U.S. 6,220,320) in Office Action, the Examiner fails to allege where these claimed features are taught and suggested. Applicant submits that neither Nakagawa nor Japan 106 teaches or suggests the features regarding the angle of the discontinuous grooves being 0 degrees and the total groove length of the main groove component being not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion.

Additionally, Applicant asserts that the cited art fails to teach or suggest that, in a no-load standard state where the tire is assembled to a standard rim specified in the standards and filled with 80% of the highest internal pressure in accordance with the tire standards, the total groove length of the main groove component is not less than 50% of the circumferential length of the tread center portion.

Accordingly, since the invention of claim 1 is not taught or fairly suggested by the cited art, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1. Dependent claims 2 and 4-7 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1.

Independent claim 8 contains similar features as independent claim 1 and should be allowable for analogous reasons. Dependent claims 9-11 and 13-17 are believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 8.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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